



# News Release

Buenos Aires NWR  
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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** <http://www.fws.gov>  
**Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge**

**For Release:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge is considering opening the refuge to hunting of jackrabbits and Eurasian collared doves. The refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is seeking public comments on this proposal. Presently the Refuge offers hunting of cottontail rabbits. This proposal would open the refuge to hunting of black-tailed and antelope jackrabbits. The refuge presently allows hunting of white-winged and mourning doves. This proposal would permit hunting of Eurasian collared doves.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 provides standards for refuge management and use. The Act recognizes hunting as a legitimate priority public use on national wildlife refuges, when compatible with the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and purposes of the specific refuge. Recreational hunting authorized by the regulations should not conflict with the primary purpose for which Buenos Aires NWR was established. Primary objectives of refuge management are to establish a breeding population of endangered masked bobwhite quail, conserve other endangered or threatened animals or plants, manage the natural abundance and diversity of refuge wildlife and habitats, and provide wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for the public.

Changes to an existing hunt plan for a national wildlife refuge must provide the public with an opportunity to comment on draft changes. The proposed action will expand quality hunting opportunities on the refuge and also help to control numbers of the non-native Eurasian collared doves.

Jackrabbit and Eurasian collared dove hunting would be allowed in the Hunt Zones of the refuge, which comprise 90% of the refuge's 118,000 acres. Hunting regulations will be consistent with State statutes as determined by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Buenos Aires NWR comprises portions of Hunt Zones 36A, 36B, and 36C. When approved for hunting, both black-tailed and antelope jackrabbits may be taken. The season is year-round, specifically September 1 - August 31 for Eurasian collared doves and July 1 - June 30 for jackrabbits. There is no bag limit.

Written comments regarding the opening hunts can be mailed to Sally Gall, Refuge Manager, or faxed to 520-823-4247, sent via email to [sally\\_gall@fws.gov](mailto:sally_gall@fws.gov), or mailed to Refuge Manager, Buenos Aires NWR, PO Box 109, Sasabe AZ. Written comments must be received by the Service by the close of business on March 25, 2013.